

Members of Team Robins share tips for making the most of Valentine's Day on a budget

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ROBINS RevUp



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THE STARBOARD WAY



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Tisha Wright
Crewmembers from the 19th Air Refueling Group refuel a Navy F-18 Hornet during a recent inter-service training mission in Puerto Rico. The training involved the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Group, as well as NATO and allied forces. For more on the exercise, see page B-1.

Robins troops get smallpox vaccinations

By Lanorris Askew
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The possible threat of the smallpox virus being used as a biological warfare agent has Robins Air Force Base educating its people on the Defense Department's plan to prevent the risk through vaccinations.

Lt. Col. Kevin Foley, deputy mission support group commander, said the Robins plan began by bringing together the team that would be involved in the immunization program.

"This is not just a medical program," he said. "This is a force protection issue, and that of course falls on squadron commanders and other commanders in the chain of command."

Foley said commanders have been educated and now the program is expanding to educate other individuals who will be receiving the vaccination.

All who are to receive the vaccination will receive briefings prior to inoculation.

The DoD program is a phased implementation process with emergency first responders receiving the vaccination first. Foley said soon after that vaccination teams will inoculate the rest of the force.

"Medical personnel and the vaccination team vaccinations have already been completed here at Robins," he said.

The next group will include military members who are at highest risk – that means those who are deploying to a part of the world where there is significant enough risk to merit preparation for prevention.

Another reason for the education program on the vaccine is the risk involved with receiving it.

There are health risks

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Team Robins reacts to space shuttle tragedy

By: Holly J. Logan
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Team Robins members said the tragic loss of Columbia and its crewmembers on Saturday reminded Americans to take nothing for granted.

Two Air Force officers, Col. Rick Husband, mission commander, and Lt. Col. Michael Anderson, payload commander, were among the seven crew members who died when the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in the skies over north central Texas.

Lt. Col. Kirk Kloeppel, acting director of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center engineering directorate, reflected that the full impact of the risks involved in aerospace exploration was not fully realized until this mark in history.

"We don't realize the "miracles" of getting a space shuttle into space and bringing it back to Earth," he said. "Saturday's tragedy has reminded us of that."

Dr. Bill Head, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center chief of history, echoed Kloeppel's comments. "People don't fully understand the

physics of a shuttle's re-entry into the atmosphere," he said. "You have a certain angle you must take or it could mean disaster. Maybe, after the recent tragedy, people understand now."

George Falldine, director of plans and programs at Robins Air Force Base, said America has united in the face of tragedy in the past, and it will prevail again.

"The Columbia's sad end reminds me how suddenly triumph can turn to tragedy," he said. "It also reminds me how often journeys that end in peaks of victory start out in valleys of despair. The Columbia's disintegration on

Saturday plunged the nation into a valley of sadness but also pulled us together and integrated us as a people with determination that we will triumph again. Even while the fires burned in the Pentagon after 9/11, our nation was determined to rebuild. Today, there are men and women occupying offices in the Pentagon where death stalked 9/11, and tomorrow, there will be men and women occupying the frontier of space that (Saturday) claimed the lives of seven

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AFMC to get day off Feb. 14

By Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam
Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander

By Nov. 8, 2002 letter, Gen. Lester L. Lyles, Commander, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, has designated Friday, Feb. 14, 2003, as an AFMC Family Day.

This day is in recognition of the tremendous sacrifices our workforce team and their families have made for the good of the AFMC mission.

The continuing contributions of our men and women, and the supporting role of their families, are crucial to AFMC's readiness and retention.

I share in Gen Lyles's belief that our family members have a positive impact on the successful accomplishment of our mission.

I thank you and your families for your allegiance to the Air Force and our great country.

Due to the large number of civilian employees working in direct support of maintenance on our major weapon systems in support of the ongoing military conflict, I have determined that the following manning postures apply for Feb. 14.

Guidance for civilian employees

The liberal use of annual leave or other authorized



Wetekam

absences from duty (such as previously earned compensatory time or leave without pay) will be authorized for Feb. 14. Consistent with skill and grade level requirements, mission essential personnel will be required to work on this day.

Those employees who are required to work will be advised as far in advance as possible. Proper leave request procedures apply in accordance with the Master Labor Agreement.

Guidance for military members

Commanders may authorize non-chargeable leave for military members on Feb. 14, in conjunction with the President's Day weekend. The President's Day weekend (Feb. 14 -Feb 17) will be a four-day regular pass period. For military members required to per-

form duty on these days, commanders may grant compensatory time off on the first working day (or days) following the holiday weekend, mission requirements permitting.

Normal rules for regular pass and for leave periods apply. A regular pass starts and ends in the local area, and there are no mileage restrictions when a member is in a pass status.

Leave periods also start and end in the local area, with day of departure on a non-duty day being a duty day and day of return on a non-duty day being a leave day.

A member out of the local area during a regular pass period must return to the local area before commencing leave on the duty day following a four-day regular pass period.

If the member does not return to the local area before commencing leave, the entire regular pass period is chargeable to leave.

Similarly, leave commenced before the four-day pass period will continue to be charged until the member returns to the local area.

Please note that DoDD 1327.5, Leave and Liberty, and AFI 36-3003, Military Leave Program, implement Air Force guidance for military leave and pass programs.

23 in '03

■ C-5 Depot Team sets production targets for FY 2003

By Lanorris Askew
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The Lean concept is sweeping the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, and the C-5 Depot Maintenance Team is planning to use the process to help meet production targets for fiscal year 2003 and beyond.

According to C-5 personnel the enormous global transport demands of supporting the war fighter have increased the C-5 program depot maintenance production goal from 17 C-5s in FY02 to 23 C-5s in FY03. In efforts to meet those demands, they have transitioned their maintenance organization from the tail team approach to the dock cell concept. The cell concept will standardize work and make the Program Depot Maintenance process more efficient. The team kicked off their transition with a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 4.

"This ceremony today is symbolic of what we have been doing already for many many months," said Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander.

Capt. Chuck Payne, C-5 Maintenance Production Supervisor, said the transition plan is the result of several Lean events and studies accomplished during the past 18 months.

"The transitioning of our PDM organization to the cell concept will reduce the number of days it currently takes to perform depot maintenance on C-5 aircraft from an average of 319 days in FY02 for an A-model and 253 days for a B-model down to 260 and 220 days respectively," he said.

Payne said the process improvements also



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Left to Right, Col. James Danielson, Ronald Orr, Steve Tomblin and George Calhoun discuss new C-5 dock cell procedures Tuesday.

target improving efficiency.

"We have already realized significant benefits from already by implementing only a few Lean initiatives. C-5s have met and exceeded its earned hours goals and made money for over four months," he said. "This is the first time ever for C-5 PDM maintenance."

Col. James Danielson, Aircraft Division chief, said when you see what is taking place here it looks like it has just started and took just a little work to set it all up.

"This took months of work," he said. "The folks that work over in our Lean Depot Repair office have meticulously planned this since January of last year. This is only the first step and it won't ever stop because this is a continuous improvement process that will keep getting better and better."

Danielson said the whole idea behind this transition is to build communication with the leadership, management, and workers and figure out the best way of doing business.

"The C-5 has been here for almost five years now," said Wetekam. "It certainly has had its ups and downs, but in the last year we have seen tremendous progress. And what we are doing today is just another big step toward our eventual goal of producing 23 aircraft this year which would be the largest production run of the C-5 since the aircraft arrived."

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Troops

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involved with the vaccine," said Foley. "Risks are in low percentages, but they are there nonetheless.

"Our utmost concern is the protection of our people, so we are implementing this program and educating people on how to manage that risk and minimize the potential for reactions."

Maj. Kristi Davis, medicine flight commander, said a telephone hotline has been set up in order to answer questions from those who have received the inoculation and may need further assistance.

"We know what to look for – that's why we are educating people on what things might cause complications and letting them self screen," said Coleman. "We have some concern for family members also. Even if I don't have a bad reaction, a family member may be prone to having one if contact is



Master Sgt. Jim Mcdonald, left and Tech Sgt. Eric Wheeldon listen to a smallpox briefing .



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp
Lt. Col. Beverly Woods, commander, 78th Public Health Flight, briefs airmen at Coats Hall about the smallpox program.

made with the injection area."

In this situation that person will get the vaccinated in the mobility line when deploying.

Because deployments are constantly occurring, many high-risk troops are being vaccinated as they go through the mobilization process for deployment. Foley said in those cases they will be monitored for indications as to whether the vaccine is taking appropriately and for any negative reactions.

While the plan calls for people to be vaccinated before deploying to high-threat areas, non-vaccination does not necessarily preclude mobilization. Foley said the vaccine may be successfully administered up to three days after exposure.

Although the general population is not at high enough risk to warrant mass vaccinations, civilians in emergency essential positions who could potentially deploy along with our military workforce will be vaccinated.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp
Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, right, talks with C-5 employees following a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the C-5 Directorate's latest move toward Lean Depot Repair.

TARGETS

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Wetekam said the C-5 is the Air Force's core air lifter. "It's the aircraft that lifts the bulk of heavy equipment. Of this endeavor he said, "We have to be successful. We have to meet our production targets for the C-5 if the Air Force is to continue to be successful. We are now on track to do that for the first

time in five years."

Wetekam said the C-5 is an important airframe and what is done with it here at Robins is important to both the Air Force and national defense.

The goal of 23 in 03 is well on its way to fruition. Col. Ed Connolly, C-5 production chief said they have already completed seven of the aircraft with the eighth at functional test ready to fly.

"We are right on schedule," he said.

Five officer specialties to receive bonus

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER (AFMCNS) – More than 6,000 officers in five critical skill career fields are now eligible for up to four years of a retention bonus at \$10,000 per year - up to \$40,000 - thanks to the Air Force's Critical Skills Retention Bonus Program.

People who may qualify are scientists, developmental engineers, acquisition program managers, civil engineers and communications and information officers with four to 13 years commissioned service who are willing to commit to serving up to four more years. Those eligible can start to receive their annual payments in the March - April time frame.

Officers who become eligible for the CSRB before Sept. 30 have until Aug. 31 to take advantage of the bonus.

This CSRB, a result of the Science and Engineering Summit held Dec. 6,

2001 at the Pentagon, is being offered to help improve retention of these five career fields, which have had the lowest retention rates in the Air Force for several years, said Lt. Col. Dean Vande Hey, deputy chief of mission support officer assignments here.

"This bonus should help make an Air Force career more financially competitive with civilian sector salaries," he said.

Most officers who qualify for the bonus will receive the standard four-year active duty service commitment that runs concurrently with any other service commitments.

The exception is officers who have completed 11, 12 or 13 years of commissioned service, said Vande Hey. Those officers would receive three-, two- and one-year active duty service commitments based on corresponding agreements at the same rate of \$10,000 a year.

For more information, call the Air Force Contact Center toll free at (866) 229-7074 or DSN 665-5000.

Robins School Board to hold special election

The Robins Air Force Base School Board will hold a special election on Feb. 19, from 8 a.m. until noon at Robins Elementary School.

The purpose of this special election is to fill the seat of a member who has resigned due to a permanent change of station move.

The term is for the remainder of the school year.

Qualification: Anyone interested in filling this seat on the school board must live in family housing and have an interest in serving on the school board.

Applications are available at building 708 (across from the hospital). Completed applications are due to building 708 by 3 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Any questions may be directed to Rebecca Carty at 926-3671.

Military Justice

An airman from the 52d Combat Communications Squadron was convicted of a violation of Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice for the failure to obey a lawful order; Article 112a for the wrongful use of marijuana; Article 86 for the failure to go to his appointed place of duty; and Article 107 for the making of a false official statement. Following a finding of guilty on the above offenses, the airman was sentenced to forfeiture of \$760 of pay for six months, confinement for six months, and a bad conduct discharge.

Following preparation of the record of trial, and submission of clemency matters, Col. Tom Smoot, 78th Air Base Wing commander, will take final action on this case.

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Ficklin
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3x3
Giles, Gwen
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1x2
Century
5650100
1

2x3
Comedy/Holiday
56516701

3x4
Hi-Energy Weight
56485601

3x3
Actel
56444801

TRAGEDY

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courageous people.”

Randy Ivey, flight chief for the mechanical systems division of the engineering directorate, said the Columbia tragedy had a profound effect on him.

“Having worked on two occasions to help NASA with space shuttle engineering issues, the Columbia re-entry accident impacted me both professionally and personally,” he said. “I feel a special bond with the NASA family. As an American and an engineer, I take great pride in the technological accomplishments of our country and our space program, and our space program is one of the technological marvels of this world.”

Ivey first worked with NASA in the mid 1980s when the Canadian built manipulator arm located in the shuttle cargo bay had potential technical problems. Later, NASA requested Ivey’s assistance for a review of an external corrosion problem on the shuttle fleet and recommendations for the maintenance processes for removal of the surface paint and treatment of corrosion.

Head added that referring to astronauts as “courageous” has a whole new meaning in the aftermath of such a tragic event.

“We often refer to these

people as courageous,” he said.

“When you take a look at the risks involved in space exploration, you see that they really are courageous in the truest sense of the word. It’s sad that it takes a tragedy like this to wake us up to the awesomeness of space exploration.”

This is not the first time America was shaken by tragedy with the NASA space shuttle program. In 1986, crew members of the Challenger space shuttle were lost in an explosion only minutes after take-off.

“After a while, we tend to become complacent and take things for granted,” K l o e p p e l said. “The tragedy in 1986 was a wake up call to the dangers involved in aeronautics. After that, people became complacent again. This tragedy has gathered our attention again.”

Members of Team Robins said the tragedy that struck NASA and humankind that February morning was one to mourn,

but should not be a loss in vain.

“It’s tragic, but let’s not let it be death without a purpose,” Head said. “When the Challenger tragedy happened, it brought up questions of whether or not the space program should continue. I would hope that space exploration would continue, not only for aerospace sake, but for the sake of scientific developments that have been made through it.”

Kloeppel agreed with Head’s view of the necessity of continuing the space exploration program.

“Certainly, these explorations have added so much

to our everyday lives,” he said. “We’ve always been expanding our boundaries. To go to a risk-free world, where we don’t push the envelope in this manner, is not what Americans are all about.”

From a historical standpoint, Head said this incident was not only a tragedy for the American people, but mankind as a whole.

“It wasn’t Americans going into space,” he said. “...it was representatives of humankind going into space.”

Head said in light of the recent loss NASA and its family members have suffered, he is reminded of

the words of President Teddy Roosevelt. “Americans may be knocked off their horses, but they get back on and finish the race.”

2x3

Friends Bar/Grill

56516601

2x3

Century 21

56501501



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

The space shuttle Discovery, lands at Robins Air Force Base perched atop a 747 in 1997. In the case of incimate weather, Robins, which has the longest runway in Georgia, is used to facilitate the shuttle on its return trip to Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canveral, Fla..

2x2

Logue

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2x2

Ocmulgee Arts

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2x3

Cheddar’s

56516101

6x10.5

Armed Forces Com

56481701

Children’s dental
month: The
sooner the better

Orale healthcare should begin: “First visit by first birthday.” Or simply put, your child’s first visit to the Dentist should be when the first tooth appears. It’s never too soon to begin a program of prevention.

Dental problems can occur very early in your child’s life; therefore, proper guidance and maintenance are vital. Children with healthy teeth learn to speak clearly, chew food easily and smile with confidence.

Starting at birth, you should begin cleansing your baby’s gums with a soft washcloth and then when you baby becomes an infant you can use a sof tooth brush and water. A soft toothbrush will remove plaque bacteria that can lead to decay. Any soft-bristled toothbrush with a small head, preferably one designed specifically for infants, should be used at least once a day at bedtime. Unless otherwise advised by your dentist, don’t begin using fluoridated toothpaste until the second or third birthday.

The child must be able to spit before a fluoridated tooth-paste can be used. At 2 -3 years of age, parents should supervise the child’s brush-ing and make sure the child uses no more than a pea-sized amount on the brush. Children should spit out and not swallow excess tooth-paste after brushing.

MAN provides
Christmas cheer

The Commodities and Industrial Products Division employees had the Christmas spirit in 2002. Six hundred Salvation Army Angels were received in MAN, and 600 were provid-ed with Christmas. Sharon Sullivan, Manufacturing Branch secretary, and Janet Dowd, Management Assistant in the Resources Management Branch, were instrumental in overseeing this project and making Christmas a happy one for many children. Ten trucks were needed to deliver more than 3,000 gifts to the Salvation Army Distribution Center in the Houston Mall. The Salvation Army had to call extra help just to sort all the gifts received.

In addition to the Salvation Army Angels, two needy single-parent families were able to provide Christmas for their children thanks to the generosity of MAN employees. A single mother from Macon was able to give her son a bike, skate board, helmet, knee and elbow pads, remote con-trol truck, basketball, walkie talkie, cars and trucks, foot-ball, clothes, a hat and pair of gloves were waiting for him Christmas morning. A Warner Robins parent was also able to give her two children an exciting Christmas as well. They received a Nintendo Game Cube with an extra con-troller and two games to go with it

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56432101

5x17.5
Rex Audio/Video
56387601

How to have a cheap date... without looking like a cheapskate

■ *Members of Team Robins offer tips for Valentine’s Day thoughtfulness*

By: **Holly J. Logan**
holly.logan@robins.af.mil

When you don’t have a lot of money, romance and good times may seem out of the question. Don’t lose heart! With a little creativity and a lot of thoughtfulness, you can win your Valentine’s heart with a virtually price-less date your loved one won’t soon forget.

Despite popular belief among some men and women in the single scene, many singles and past participants in the dating game can attest the fact that money is not always the root of a great date.

Master Sgt. Mark A. Van Osdol, aircraft structural maintenance worker, said the importance of compatibility with a person on a date far outweighs the value of money.

“Society is so hung up on money that many people think they need money to have a great date,” he said. “Granted, I can think of a lot of great dates that cost a lot of money, but I also know that money isn’t a pre-requisite for having fun. Just being together is more important. Talk is free.”

Erica Glynn, branch secretary for the vehicle management directorate, said if two people truly enjoy each other’s company, money would most likely not

be a major factor in the date’s success.

“A lot of people think that a large amount of money will ensure a good time, but this is not true,” she said. “You can go to the fanciest restaurant, have the best wine, etc., but if the person you are with is a jerk, at the end of the night, he or she is still going to be a jerk.”

Senior Airman Rachel Artiles, separation retirement clerk for the military personnel flight, agreed with Glynn, and said the true success of a date cannot be found in tangible things.

“If you base all of your happiness on the value of money, you’re more likely to be disappointed because feeling good comes from within,” she said. “To me, if someone is that wrapped up in money, it is not someone I would like to be with anyway. Money is just money. If I run out, I can go make more. ...If I have food, clothes, and a warm place to live, that is really all I need. All the rest is gravy.”

When cash is barely flowing, you don’t have to forego that date with the object of your affection. Artiles said there are many alternatives to the traditional dates that can sometimes drain your financial resources.

“I would usually try to find something out of the ordinary for us to do,” she said. “Instead of going to the movies (\$14), go to the park and feed the ducks (free). Instead of going to the club (\$60), make a club like environment at home (turn the lights down low, turn on music, and have inexpensive punch (\$20)).”

Nancy Garrison, married for 23 years, offered a few ideas, such as a bicycle ride accompanied by a delicious picnic, a day of site seeing followed by a trip to your area ice cream shop, or a candle light dinner at home, that may work magic whether you’re a novice or a veteran in the dating world.

Senior Airman Vincent Lewis, information management specialist for the 78th Civil Engineering Squadron, said dating on a low budget isn’t always easy, but it can be done.

“If you have no money, and you want to date, you need to find someone who knows and understands your situation,” he said. “Find someone who wants to date you for who you are, not what you can offer materially.”

The American dollar may not stretch very far, but the value of creativity can mean financial survival in the pursuit of your Valentine’s heart.

When Funds are low, these cheap date and gift ideas could be just what you need



Staff Sgt. Brent W Baty
51st CBCS/SCBNM

“For the low-expense romantic, I recommend a few things.

Buy one brownie mix (\$1), bag of M&Ms (\$1), one pair of scissors or sharp tipped knife and two note-book size pieces of paper (one for a personalized card. The second one you'll use to make the heart as a guide to cut out heart-shaped brownies).

“Go to the store and look around for cool ideas to include in your homemade card.

“After giving your brownies adequate time for cooking, place the heart you made over the top of the brownies and cut out your heart-shaped brownies.

“Once you have at least two cut out, place three M&Ms on each one. When you serve the brownies, tell the person that the M&Ms stand for the love you hold for the person, the happiness the person brings you, and the joy that it is to be in that person's presence. Present your card as a final Valentine's token.”

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1x2
Coldwell
Banker
56513101

2x3
Sun Mark Bank
56501701

2x3
Crumpton Shoes
56485501

2x3
Joe D’s
56515701

4x3
Midtown Grill
56516501

5x8
Robins AFB Chapel
56514501

IDEAS

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Erica T. Glynn, Vehicle Management Secretary

“One year, I put an ad in the Daily Sun for my boyfriend, telling him how much he meant to me. It was very inexpensive and thoughtful.”



Nancy D. Garrison
WRALC/LECR-1

“For the woman in your life, make your roses count. Take chocolate kisses (still inside wrapper), buy red and silver craft foil paper. Use green floral picks to use as the rose stems to attach to the bottom of the wrapped candy with candy tips facing upward. Tie an inexpensive red ribbon around the bottom. There you have your roses and candy all in one!”



Kathy L. Dean,
78th Medical Group

“One time, I sent a young, step-daughter a card with some glitter inside of it. I told her that the glitter was my kisses. She loved it.

“I have a friend who lives in the country. She and her husband had been married for a while and he wasn't expecting anything for Valentine's Day.

“She sent the kids to Grandma's house, caged the dogs, and put a long chain across the driveway so no one could visit.

“She asked her husband to come outside, where he found her reclining on pillows and a blanket in the yard with refreshments, a sky full of stars, and a full moon.

“They had a romantic evening together that he still recalls years later.”



Tech Sgt. Mark A. Van Osdol, Aircraft Structural Maintenance

“After the kids are put to bed (if you have kids), run a nice, deep hot bubble bath. Light a couple of candles and place them around the bath. Get some high-grade cheese (the imported stuff is best) and some good quality crackers. Buy a nice bottle of wine.

“Now, all you need are wine glasses, a corkscrew, and cheese grater. You could even bring in a portable CD player, if you have one, to play some romantic music.”

Col. Mike Mickelson,
director, HQ Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs

“This is an idea for the gentlemen who are short on cash and do not usually express affection toward their sweethearts.

“Besides a box of chocolates or a candle light dinner, they should turn off the television, put down the newspaper, and have a conversation with their loved ones. Listening is a huge part of that communication.

“If children are a factor, have a friend or neighbor



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Gifts such as these can be purchased for a nominal fee at the ITT office in the Smith Community Center.

watch them. I bet there are several ladies who would love for their husbands/boyfriends to converse with them.”

B.J Sweigart, management assistant for the maintenance directorate.

“Here's an alternative to the traditional roses and candy idea.

“Give a bouquet of silk roses instead of paying a high price for real ones.

“Enjoy a relaxing evening together watching an oldie, but goodie romantic movie while eating chocolate covered strawberries and drink-

ing your favorite wine.”

Senior Airman Travis Heath, desk sergeant for the 78th Security Forces

“If you don't have a lot of money, make some ham and cheese finger sandwiches and red Kool-aid.

“Take some wine glasses, a blanket, some candles, and soft music for a picnic and long walk along Lake Luna.”

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Fickling
56511401

3x10
Armed Forces Com
56432601

2x3.5
Babyland
56409402

2x4
Drew&Drew
56512201

3x3.5
Land’g Golf
56339503

2x4.75
Fickling Co/WR
56511901

2x5
Land’g Golf
56319302

To reach the Robins Rev-Up staff,
call 926-2137

AFMC commander lauds new portal capability as essential

By Gen. Lester Lyles
Commander, Air Force Materiel Command

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFMCNS) -- I recently told you my commander's intent for transformation within Air Force Materiel Command, listing four expectations to improve our support to the warfighter.

Among those are our goals to become more effective and efficient and to make our command easier to do business with. The experts in our information technology directorate and the Materiel Systems Group have teamed efforts to do just that by integrating us into the Air Force Portal.

Last year we embarked on an AFMC Portal initiative designed to streamline business processes and achieve significant savings by consolidating or eliminating web servers. We have since joined forces with the Air Force chief information officer at the Pentagon to integrate what we have accomplished to date with the Air Force Portal. It's a win for AFMC and a win for our Air Force!

Our three original portal objectives remain intact: 1) to establish standard web views with consistent look and feel and distinctive AFMC branding, 2) to implement a powerful content



Lyles

Force Portal pilot program along with Air Combat Command headquarters and selected units at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Participating units other than AFMC headquarters will include the Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Security Assistance Center.

The purpose of the pilot program is to register a large number of users and start getting feedback on Air Force Portal capabilities while assessing the impacts of servicing a large user community.

The current version of the Air Force Portal will provide a single window for you to access a wide range of information across different web

management capability, ensuring our web content remains current and relevant, and 3) to provide a common platform for delivering future web applications and capabilities.

We will achieve these objectives in three phases. During phase one, AFMC headquarters and other selected units here will participate in the Air Force Portal pilot program along with Air Combat Command headquarters and selected units at Langley Air Force Base, Va. Participating units other than AFMC headquarters will include the Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Research Laboratory and the Air Force Security Assistance Center.

The purpose of the pilot program is to register a large number of users and start getting feedback on Air Force Portal capabilities while assessing the impacts of servicing a large user community.

The current version of the Air Force Portal will provide a single window for you to access a wide range of information across different web

sites. This information includes: military and civilian pay and benefits information, space-available travel sites and reservation information, TRICARE sites and other medical and health information, and access to self-service applications like LeaveWeb, Thrift Savings Account Access, myPay and more.

The portal pulls together information for Air Force people into a single site. Target date for achieving phase one was Feb. 3.

During phase two, we position ourselves to achieve real business value from the portal by capitalizing on work already accomplished within AFMC. We will stand up a production content management system here and help do the same at Gunter Annex, Ala.

In parallel, we will help the Air Force CIO implement the AFMC workspace model. This model will consist of four web views: job, workspace, knowledge and reference.

The workspace views will eventually provide AFMC people with personalized content and applications directly related to managing their Air Force careers and accomplishing their day-to-day work.

The goal for achieving phase two is March 25, but we're working hard to do it sooner. When that is complete, we will begin moving existing web content to the portal, and we will

create links to the various applications our users need to do their jobs.

Finally, during phase three, we'll continue migrating web content and start fully integrating web capabilities into the common platform and workspace model built during phase two. This final phase is a long-term effort and may actually include a number of individual steps.

I am committed to the Air Force Portal because it drives business value through web server elimination. It also sets the stage for transforming AFMC business processes.

Unlike web sites, where some information may be irrelevant, the Air Force Portal will offer registered users each a site that knows them. The Portal offers self-service, allowing our people to take care of business without waiting in lines, on the phone or struggling with red tape. It makes getting services and finding information on line easier, and offers meaningful, relevant content.

The Air Force Portal cuts through the clutter of online information, offering consistent, user-friendly navigation through a wealth of knowledge. This will help us do our jobs better and improve our quality of life.

I need everyone across AFMC to get behind this important command and Air Force initiative. The Air Force Portal is personal, powerful and essential!

Organizational health at Robins should be everyone's focus

Maj. Beth Zeiger, Ph.D.
Director, Organizational Health Center

As Team Robins starts a new year together, I'd like to call your attention to the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center mission statement: "Warner Robins ALC provides combat-ready weapon systems, equipment, services, and support personnel for the world's best Air Force.

Our people deliver best value sustainment and contingency response for U.S. and allied warfighters through world-class cradle-to-grave management, maintenance, and combat support." Notice at the heart of this statement is, "Our people deliver."

If people are the key, how do we as a team take care of people so people can do the mission? How do we position Robins AFB to be the employer of choice in middle Georgia? Are you happy working here? Do you want to continue working here? What changes do you think need to be made to make this a better place to work? How do you get along with your supervisor? Your coworkers? How responsive is management to your needs? How responsive are your employees to mission demands? How well does your team work together? Do you get the job done? Are you taking care of yourself and your family? How healthy are you? Overall, are you happy?

We spend a good chunk of our time working. Seems to make sense we'd want our work hours to be satisfying. Since arriving here at Robins, I've heard the gamut - from the very happy to the very unhappy, and all points in between. I've heard about the strain between labor and management. I've heard sometimes we have trouble getting our production up and that some areas are improving and others doing well.

I've heard about disrespectful treatment of others, management to employee and vice versa. I've heard working at Robins is a good opportunity here in middle Georgia. I've heard commitment to the mission.

When there are work problems, whom do you blame? Management for being poor leaders, employees for being poor workers, government for not supplying enough resources? If you look for them, you'll find any number of things about which people complain. Often it seems the problems are beyond our scope of influence and those who can make changes aren't listening. Sometimes the best we can do is look at our contribution and ourselves. What am I doing to make my workplace more effective and healthy? Do I address problems directly or just complain to my friends? Challenge yourself to act appropriately and respectfully, regardless of how others act or treat you - act in a way you'd be proud to tell your family and friends; treat others the way you'd like to be treated.

If you are in a management and/or leader-

ship position and your team is unhappy, look at different ways you can make changes. It's an awesome responsibility to be a leader. Build trust with your staff by being fair. When you say you will do something, follow through. Give regular feedback. Let your staff know your specific expectations for conduct and behavior. If someone is not doing well, let them know how they can improve. Refer them for help if personal issues are getting in their way. Don't let inappropriate actions go unaddressed. Use the expertise of the people doing the work. Tap into their creative resources and pooled knowledge. You're not in it alone!

Also consider, what kind of follower are you? In any organization, good followership is just as important as good leadership. Take personal responsibility for the quality of your performance.

Take pride in your work. Support leadership and yet speak up respectfully when something could be changed. Ask to be involved in problem solving and goal setting. Seek out feedback if you aren't receiving it. Address issues at the lowest level possible to give your unit a chance to change.

Even the lowest-ranking member of the team can be a leader and impact change. Remember the big picture of our mission here.

Everything boils down to people. Ever wish you had someone to go to when your team isn't working well? Maybe you know your team has the potential and you have the resources, but people issues seem to slow down efficiency. Just when everything seems to be going well, grievances and complaints crop up and you find yourself spending more time trying to manage individual issues and less time focusing on the mission.

Perhaps you've been put into a leadership position and feel over your head.

The Organizational Health Center (OHC) is a new consultation service on base. As the Air Logistics Center and 78th Air Base Wing's internal consultants, OHC is designed to assist with any number of organizational concerns. The goal is to assist leaders in applying the principles of the social and behavioral sciences to create a healthier, more productive work environment where all employees are valued and treated with dignity and respect. Anyone may call with questions or concerns about their organization. The Organizational Health Center works to help you make your work center a place you want to work. We can help you meet your goal of developing a productive, respectful and healthy workplace.

We can assist with anything from how to run more effective meetings to decreasing conflict in the workplace to planning for organizational change. Our intent is to help improve the working climate at Robins. Team Robins enjoys a vast array of resources.

OHC works actively with the Integrated Delivery System, the committee of helping agencies on base, to ensure all civilians know they have access to these important resources. Often civilian employees are not aware that many of the services available to military members are also open to them, such as personal financial management, diabetes management and stress management.

While OHC helps management create a

less stressful working environment, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides short-term, solution-focused counseling to help civilian employees address their personal concerns and cope more effectively with job and life stress.

People are key to our success and survival. Value and respect others, act in trustworthy and respectful ways. To consult or just get more information, call 7-7680.



Col. Marvin Smoot Jr.,
Commander,
78th Air Base Wing



Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Commander,
Warner Robins
Air Logistics Center

Commanders' Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes. To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage on the World Wide Web at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Need more CLEP testing times

Q. I have a problem with the procedures the education office uses for College Level Examination Program (CLEP) testing. Presently, CLEP testing is offered only on Mondays and Wednesdays. I called them on Jan. 6 to make an appointment to take a test and was told that nothing was available until February and to call back on Jan.15 to make the appointment. I feel that waiting a month to take a test is unacceptable. There are some of us on the short list for deployment who want to take a test prior to deploying.

I don't know if the problem is lack of classroom space, lack of test proctors or something else. Regardless, if there is such a demand for CLEP testing, steps should be taken to increase the availability of these tests. Can something be done to improve this service?

Colonel Smoot responds: Thanks for your concern and the opportunity to tell you of the following steps taken to reduce the waiting time for CLEP testing:

- The number of CLEP testing slots has been increased 33 percent from 15 to 20 per testing session.
- An additional CLEP testing session

will be added starting in February.

- An additional person has been assigned as a proctor. Additional proctors are required any time there are more than 15 people taking tests.
- A second person has been assigned to support test scheduling and administrative support.
- A late appointment option is available to personnel needing to schedule an appointment as late as 7:30 a.m. on the day of testing, provided a slot is available. One contributing factor to waiting time during January was the unavoidable loss of testing slots due to holidays on January 1st and 20th. Another contributing factor to waiting time is the number of people who schedule a test and then do not show up.

The no-show rate for CLEP and DANTES testing varies from 15 percent to 53 percent. Proactive steps are being taken to reduce the no-show rates as part of our improved service.

Hopefully, our making more testing slots available and reducing no-shows will help everyone advance their education better while performing their duties and unit missions.



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